



PARENT INFORMATION GUIDE



Welcome to the Adventure of Scouting

Pack 175 - London

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Why Join Cub Scouting?

- Your time is valuable. More than ever, today's families strive to find quality time to spend together. Cub Scouting helps to support your family by providing ready-made opportunities for you and your child to do things together.
- Cub Scout-age children benefit developmentally from belonging to a group of children their own age. Through their sense of belonging, a child builds self-esteem and learns to get along with others.
- As a parent, you want to be assured that the groups that your child joins will teach values consistent with good citizenship, character development, and physical fitness. The Boy Scouts of America has been weaving these lifetime values into fun and educational activities since 1910.
- Cub Scouts offers an alternative to screen time and gets kids outside experiencing nature.
- In a society where your child is taught that winning is everything, Cub Scouting teaches him to "do their best" and to be helpful to others.
- Scouting teaches family values and works to strengthen your relationship with your child. Scouting activities can bring added value to the time you already have with your child.
- S/he will learn to live by the code of "On my honor."

But we know that children do not join Cub Scouting just to build character. Scouts join because it is fun. And fun is at the heart of everything Cub Scouts do—from exploring natural habitats to building model cars and robots to trying sports like archery or telling stories around a campfire. Scouts might be learning great lessons, but they're far too busy having fun to notice.



About Pack 175

Pack 175 is sponsored by The American School in London, 1 Waverley Place, London, NW8 0NP, United Kingdom.

Pack 175 is a member of the Transatlantic Council, which was founded in May 1950. The American School was founded the following year in the Spring of 1951 and its first class of nine boys already included one boy scout.

Our pack includes girls and boys from schools all over the London metropolitan area and from a variety of nationalities.

How Does Cub Scouting Work?

One unique thing about Cub Scouting is that you, as their family, join in on the program with your child, and you will help him/her along the way. Cub Scouting exists to support your family and help enrich your family time together.

Cubs receive a new handbook at each grade level, with adventures that are age-appropriate for their developmental level. As your child advances through these books by working on adventures with you, s/he will earn badges and other recognition that s/he can wear on their uniform. Your child's success in Cub Scouting depends on you!

The Cub Scouting program takes place at two levels. Your child will be a part of a den, a small group of scouts in the same grade level who will meet regularly. All dens, from Grades K2 through 5 (US) and Years 1 through 6 (UK), make up a Pack. Once a month, the dens, with their families, are together at the pack meeting, where scouts show off the new skills they have learned during the month and are recognized for the badges they have earned.

All children, when they join, earn the Bobcat badge first.

1. The Bobcat Award is like an orientation for kids and parents both. The Bobcat part introduces you to the basic outline of the program
2. Doing the Bobcat Trail gets you familiar with the principals of being a Cub Scout, like the Cub Scout Oath, and the ranks, and so on.
3. Doing the Bobcat Trail also gets you familiar with the workflow for achievement in Cub Scouts. Follow the steps and you'll be ready to do the same for just about any achievement your Cub wants to tackle.



Dens

The Lion Den (Grade K2 US / Year 1 UK)

The Lion program weaves traditional Scouting concepts of character development, leadership skills, personal fitness and citizenship into activities that are age-appropriate and fun for kindergarteners and their parents. Lions join with a parent or caring adult partner. They wear a special t-shirt and have their own adventures.



The Tiger Den (Grade 1 US Year 2 UK)

Parents are most involved at the Tiger level. The child and their parent or guardian join the den together and attend all meetings and activities together. The den usually meets monthly either at the homes of host parent-child teams or at a designated facility; participates in adventures, some of which involve outings; and attends the monthly pack meeting.



The Wolf (Grade 2 US / Year 3 UK) and Bear (Grade 3 US / Year 4 UK) Dens

Parents are vital to the Cub Scout dens, both in the role of home support and to help the den leader. Children at their age are beginning to be more independent, and not every child needs a parent at every meeting. The den consists of three to eight children and a den leader and assistant den leader (usually parents of some of the children), and often a den chief (an older Scout from the Scouts BSA Troop who helps the den leader).

They usually meet once a month at a regularly scheduled time and place, and they also attend the pack meeting with their families. Parents also accompany their scout to all activities (hikes, campouts, etc.).



The Webelos Scout Den (Grades 4 and 5 US / Years 5 and 6 UK)

The Webelos den is much like the Wolf and Bear dens, but there is more emphasis on the scouts learning to take leadership roles and preparing to become Boy Scouts.



Pack Meetings

The Cub Scout Pack is made up of all the dens, which meets monthly at the Pack Meeting, led by the Cubmaster. There are often games, skits, ceremonies, and presentations of badges that the Scouts earned during that month. Pack meetings are typically on the first Thursday of each month.

The Pack, including families, also participates in other special events throughout the year, including:

- Pinewood derby®—You can build and race a model car with your child.
- Blue and Gold banquet—Cub Scouting’s birthday party—for all pack members and their families— takes place in Feb/March.
- Camping—Overnight and day camp opportunities introduce your family to the camping experience.
- Service projects—Packs may participate in food drives, conservation projects, or other community activities.
- Field trips and special outings—Den outings are a great way to learn more about the people and places in your community.



Make memories with your child that will last a lifetime!

How Can You Help?

The most important help that you, as a parent, can give your Scout is to work with him/her on their Cub Scouting adventures and help him/her achieve their badge of rank. The handbook is full of age-appropriate activities that you will enjoy doing together at home. When your Scout completes a project, it is your responsibility to sign their book and enter it into Scoutbook to verify that they have done their best. This will help the den leader know that s/he can sign off on that part of your child's rank requirements and arrange for recognition for their efforts. And then it is all-important for you to attend the monthly pack meeting with your child, so you can celebrate their achievement. Your role as a parent is the secret to a successful Cub Scouting program!

The Den and Pack also rely on parent participation to run a successful program!

Cub Scouting operates through volunteer leadership. Consider volunteering as a member of the pack leadership team. Volunteer leaders are an example of Scouting's principle of service to others. By volunteering in Scouting, you are also giving your child the gift of your time. What could be more valuable? You will have an opportunity to be a positive influence in their life and in the lives of their friends.

Leadership Roles

- Den leader - Leads the den at weekly den and monthly pack meetings. Attends the monthly pack committee meeting.
- Cubmaster. Helps plan and carry out the pack program with the help of the pack committee. Emcees the monthly pack meeting and attends the pack committee meeting.



The Pack Committee

Every Cub Scout parent or guardian is invited to become a member of the pack committee. Pack committee members perform administrative functions of the pack. The committee meets monthly and includes the responsibilities below.

Committee Chair -- Presides at all pack committee meetings. Helps recruit adult leaders and attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Advancement Chair -- Maintains advancement records for the pack. Orders and obtains all badges and insignia. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Membership and Registration Chair -- Processes youth and adult applications and ensures that Scoutbook is maintained and up to date. Ensures all adult leaders are properly registered. Coordinates background checks for all parents as is required by our Chartered Organization. Responsible for the annual recharter with BSA,

Treasurer -- Keeps all records for the pack, including pack bank account, financial records, etc. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

Pack Trainer – Orients parents of new pack members. Coordinates training for adult leaders. Promotes leader training and roundtable meeting attendance. Attends the monthly pack meeting and pack committee meeting.

ASL Liason. Liase with American School of London so that Pack 175 remains in excellent status within the school

Pine Wood Derby. Coordinates all necessary logistics and competitions for badge, awards, and fund raising

Normandy. (If In current year) Coordinates logistics, events, and signing up of families in order to lead a successful event

PR/Media – Manages public relations and media to gain exposure to show support for and received from the community. Also, tasked to help with recruitment and corporate fund raising

Training

The Boy Scouts of America offers convenient training for parents who volunteer to serve as leaders. As a new parent, you can learn all about Cub Scouting and how quality Scouting programs are built at the pack level. Log on to <https://my.scouting.org> and create an account to gain access to all available training content.

Youth Protection

Child abuse is a serious problem in our society, and unfortunately, it can occur anywhere, even in Scouting. Youth safety is of paramount importance to Scouting. The Boy Scouts of America places the greatest importance on providing the most secure environment possible for its youth members. To maintain such an environment, the BSA has developed numerous procedural and leadership selection policies and provides parents and leaders with numerous online and print resources for the Cub Scout and Boy Scout programs.

We encourage all parents to take the BSA's Youth Protection training, which is required for all adult leaders. This training is required for all adults attending 72 cumulative hours of activities (including Normandy).

To find out more about the Youth Protection policies of the Boy Scouts of America and how to help Scouting keep your family safe, see the Parent's Guide in any of the Cub Scouting or Child Scouting handbooks, or go to <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>. Completion of the "Exercises in Personal Safety Awareness" in the Parent Guide with your child is a requirement for rank advancement.

New leaders are required to complete Youth Protection training before registering. To take the training online, go to [My.Scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and establish an account using the member number you receive when you register for BSA membership. If you take the training online before you obtain a member number, be sure to return to MyScouting and enter your number for training record credit. Your BSA local council also provides training on a regular basis if you cannot take it online. For more information, refer to the back of the BSA adult membership application, No. 524-501.

Youth Protection training must be taken every two years. If a volunteer's Youth Protection training record is not current at the time of recharter, the volunteer will not be registered. For more information about Youth Protection, please see BSA's Youth Protection website at www.scouting.org/youthprotection.aspx.



How Much Does Scouting Cost?

Registration fee and Pack Dues — annual fee for youth (fee includes den books, neckerchief and slider, hat, badges): £200

Books — Youth handbooks for Lions, Tigers, Wolves, Bears and Webelos are included in the Registration fee. Other excellent resources can be found at <http://tac-bsa.org/supply-center/> .

Uniform — Hats, neckerchiefs and sliders are included in the registration fee. Other uniform items such as Class "A" should be purchased at www.scoutstuff.org or <https://tac-bsa.org/supplycenter> .



Wearing the Uniform

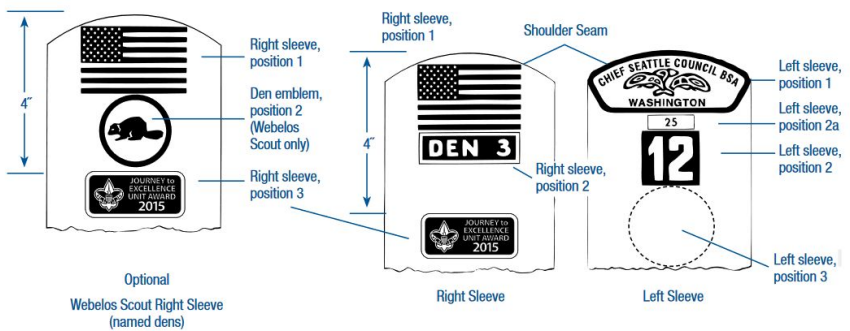
Cubs are expected to wear their full Class A uniforms for all Pack and Den meetings and events, including the Pinewood Derby, Blue and Gold Dinner, etc. Pack leaders will provide advance notice of any occasion when the boys should wear anything other than the complete uniform. Here are some tips for wearing the uniform:

- DO keep the uniform clean and in good repair. The official uniform is a sturdy, machine-washable garment that will last for years with proper care.
- DO be sure to wear the complete uniform. A Cub Scout wearing a uniform with parts missing is not in uniform. Scouts can wear any dark, plain trousers or shorts to be in uniform.
- DO NOT wear non-BSA badges, awards, or insignia on the Cub Scout uniform or make any alterations to the uniform or insignia.

Proper placement can be found here:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/CubScout_Insignia.pdf

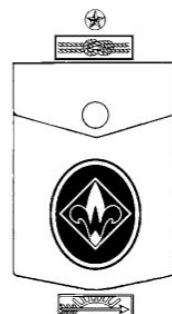
When a scout first joins Cub Scouting, their uniform will display only those badges that identify their status: the World Crest, which shows they are a member of the worldwide Scouting movement; the national flag; council strip; and pack number. As a Cub Scout progresses, they will earn badges, belt loops, pins, medals, and other insignia that tell of their accomplishments in Scouting. These items should be added to the uniform only after they have been earned.



WEBELOS SCOUT
LEFT POCKET



WEBELOS SCOUT
LEFT POCKET



WEBELOS SCOUT
LEFT POCKET

How the uniform helps the Scout

The uniform is one of the methods Scouting uses to achieve the aims of Scouting. When a Scout puts on the uniform, s/he tells the world that s/he has agreed to live by the Scout Oath and Law, and that s/he is a person who can be trusted. The uniform serves as a constant reminder to our Scouts that they are to act as a Scout.

How the uniform helps the Pack

- When smartly worn, the uniform helps build good Pack spirit.
- By investing in a uniform, a Scout and his parents are really making a commitment to take Scouting seriously.
- The uniform makes the Pack visible as a force for good in the community.
- In public, Scouts in uniform create a strong, positive, youth image in the neighborhood.

A competition will be held for dens that consistently come in full uniform and inspections will be held at each pack meeting.



Parts of the Cub Scout Uniform:

- Lion Den Shirt —Tshirt with Lion and neckerchief and neckerchief slide is optional
- Shirt —The official uniform shirt is available with long or short sleeves and has button-flap pockets and "Boy Scouts of America" lettered in gold above the right pocket.
- Trousers or shorts — Official blue. <<Optional for Pack 175>>
- Belt — Official navy-blue web belt with metal buckle and Tiger, Cub Scout, or Webelos Scout emblem.
- Socks — Official socks are available in three lengths: ankle, crew, and knee. Tigers' socks are navy blue with orange tops. Cub Scouts' socks are navy blue with gold tops. <<Optional for Pack 175>>

- Cap — Official navy-blue cap with orange front panel and tiger cub emblem for Tigers; yellow panel and wolf emblem for Wolf Scouts; blue panel and bear emblem for Bear Scouts. Webelos Scouts wear an olive cap with a plain panel bearing the Webelos logo.
- Neckerchief —Triangular neckerchief is orange with navy-blue trim for Tigers, gold with navy-blue trim for Wolf Scouts, light blue with navy-blue trim for Bear Scouts, and plaid for Webelos Scouts. Neckerchief slide—Official gold-tone metal slide with the Tiger, Cub Scout, or Webelos Scout logo. Scouts may wear handmade neckerchief slides.



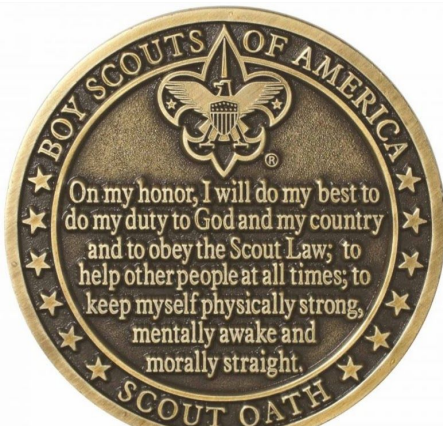
Webelos Scout uniform has the following parts:

- Webelos Scouts may choose to wear the tan/olive uniform like the one that Scouts BSA wear.
- Webelos may wear the official Scout tan long- or short-sleeved shirt with blue shoulder loops.
- Webelos Scouts should wear the Webelos neckerchief (plaid with the Webelos emblem), Webelos neckerchief slide (handmade slides are also acceptable), and Webelos cap. Webelos wear their adventure pins on either their Webelos Colors or their Webelos hat.



Personal Code of Conduct

A Scout is expected to live his/her life by the principles of the Scout Oath and Law. We want him/her to be an example to those around him/her of the values, character and leadership of the Boy Scouts of America. A Scout should ALWAYS think like an ambassador and behave in a Scout-like manner that brings credit upon his/her family, the Pack, the community, and himself. Scouts are expected to control their own behavior and those of other scouts. Those scouts who fail to live up to these standards will at the discretion of the Den Leader and ultimately the Cubmaster (or his designate) be subject to counseling/warning, probation, suspension, or even expulsion from the Pack. There is zero tolerance for hazing, bullying or violent behavior. A decision to suspend or expel a Scout from the Pack may be appealed to the Pack Committee.



How do I Register?

Please complete the Registration form and Medical forms:

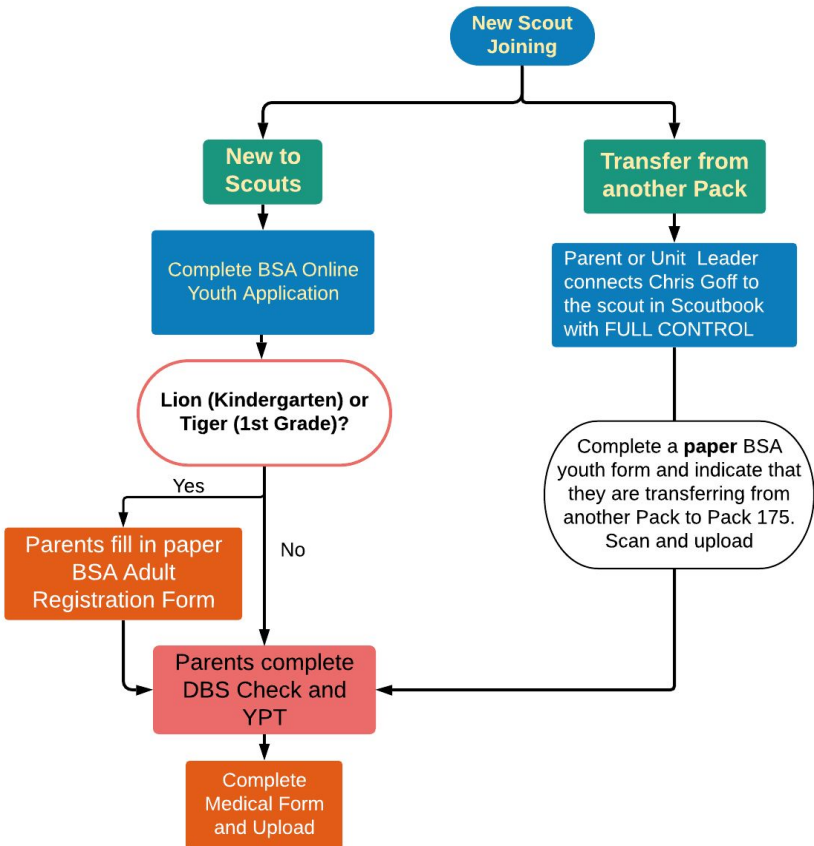
<https://www.londonscouts.org/cubscout-applications-medical-forms>

Required for ALL Pack 175 families:

- Updated Medical forms (Part A and B)
- Updated DBS checks (3 years) and YPT (2 years) training for parents

Families new to BSA:

- Register with the national organization and obtain a BSA number for the Scout:
<https://my.scouting.org/VES/OnlineReg/1.0.0/?&tu=UF-MB-802paa0175>
- Parents of Lion and Tiger Cubs should also register as Adult Partners (Position Code AP)



Frequently Asked Questions

Joining Cub Scouting

How old (or young) can a child be to join Cub Scouting?

Cub Scouting is for girls and boys in K2 through fifth grades (US) or Year 1 through Year 6 (UK). Youth who are older than 10, or who have completed the fifth grade US or Year 6 UK, can no longer join Cub Scouting, but are eligible to join Scouts BSA (Troop 401).

How can I become an adult volunteer in Cub Scouting?

Express your interest to the pack leaders—the Cubmaster, chartered organization representative, or members of the unit committee. They can help you understand the process and guide you on areas where the pack needs support. All packs welcome and NEED parent help.

Must I be a U.S. citizen to join Cub Scouting?

Citizenship is not required of youth or adults to become members of the Boy Scouts of America.

Staying Informed

Where do I access the calendar?

Go to Scoutbook under My Dashboard/Events/My Calendar to see events. If you would like to add the calendar to Google Calendar or another calendar you have that supports the iCal protocol, click on Subscribe next to the calendar name at the bottom of the calendar for the link to use on your 3rd party calendar.

How do I track my Cub Scout's progress?

Pack 175 utilizes the online Scoutbook system. On this portal, you can track your cub's progress, access event information, and update his/her profile. This system is used around the world, so your data will follow you if you ever move to a new Pack or Troop elsewhere.



The Cub Scouts Program

Are Cub Scouts the same as Scouts BSA?

Starting in 2018, the Boy Scouts of America joined Scouting in the rest of the developed world in welcoming both boys and girls. The name of the organization remains the Boy Scouts of America and the program for older scouts (aged 11-17) has changed from "Boy Scouts" to "Scouts BSA". The Boy Scouts of America encompasses both the Cub Scouts as well as Scouts BSA, Venturing and Exploring.

May parents attend den meetings?

Parents are encouraged to attend all meetings but may arrange for another adult to take responsibility for the Cub at Den or Pack meetings if there are extenuating circumstances.

Advancement and Awards

If a child joins a Bear den, can they go back and earn the Tiger and Wolf badges?

No. In the Cub Scout program, all Scouts in a den work toward the same badge. If a child joins Cub Scouting as a 9-year-old, they must earn the Bobcat badge and then begin working on the Bear badge with fellow Cub Scouts. Tiger or Wolf badges are not pre-requisites. Since those badges are for younger children, the requirements for those badges are not consistent with an older child's level of ability, so "going back" to pick up those badges is not part of the program.

If a child completes the Wolf badge early, can they begin working on the Bear badge?

No. In the Cub Scout program, all Scouts in a den work toward a badge that is geared to their level of development. If the Wolf badge is completed before the end of the program year, a Scout may work on elective adventures, but they may not begin working on the requirements for the Bear badge. Work on the Bear badge will begin the next program year, when graduating into a Bear den.

How does the Pack track achievements and award criteria?

Cub Scouts is a partnership between Scouts, parents and the Den Leader. Advancement is tracked using the online platform Scoutbook, which all parents should connect to and use diligently. Some criteria can be approved directly by Den Leaders, but it is usually the role of the parent to work with their Cub to track achievements.



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<https://www.londonscouts.org>